

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05919 220740Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
----- 027711

R 220642Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5042

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 5919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA ON GOWON EXTRADITION AND UK RELATIONS

1. DURING BRIEF STOPOVER AT KANO MAY 20 (REPORTED IN PRESS AS BEING ON THE WAY TO OFFICIAL VISIT TO GUYANA), EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THERE IS VIRTUALLY NOTHING NIGERIA CAN DO AT PRESENT TO GET GOWON BACK FROM UK. ON SVERING RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN, COMMISSIONER SAID SUCH FAR REACHING DECISION WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL WEIGHTING OF ALL PROS AND CONS AND WOULD BE REASONABLE ONLY AS LAST RESORT. GARBA WARNED AGAINST CARELESS AND FLIPPANT TALK ABOUT QUESTION OF BREAKING TIES WITH BRITAIN.'

2. COMMENT. GARBA'S REMARKS APPEAR PUT SEAL ON COMMON VIEW HERE THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS RESIGNED TO GOWON'S NOT BEING RETUREND AND THAT HMG IS OFF HOOK FOR THE MOMENT. PRESS CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP STORY BEFORE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, AND FMG WILL CONTINUE FIND ITSELF PULLED IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. ON ONE HAND GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE THAT PUBLIC BELIEVES IT HAS BEEN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05919 220740Z

FIRM IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT THE RETURN OF AN ALLEGED COUP

PLOTTER. FMG MAY EVEN WANT TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THREAT OF RETALIATION  
OVE HEADS OF BRITISH FOR A WHILE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FMG MAY  
CONSIDER THE ADVERSE RAMIFICATIONS OF A POSSIBLE TRIAL AND CON-  
VICTION OF THE COUNTRY'S EX-HEAD OF STATE OUTWEIGH ANY  
BENEFITS. GOWON SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE COUNTRY (AND ARMY) WOULD BE  
GIVEN ADDITIONAL CAUSE FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY. OTHER  
SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC OPINION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONSIDER EXECUTION  
OR IMPRISONMENT OF GOWON UNSUPPORTABLE. INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION  
WOULD ALSO BE FOCUSED ON FMG TREATMENT OF MAN WHO HAD GAINED  
REPUTATION AS STATESMAN DURING HIS NINE YEAR TENURE IN OFFICE.  
CROSBY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, EXTRADITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS05919  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760199-0457  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760525/aaaaavrq.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GARBA ON GOWON EXTRADITION AND UK RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UK, NI, (GOWON), (GARBA, JOSEPH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006